

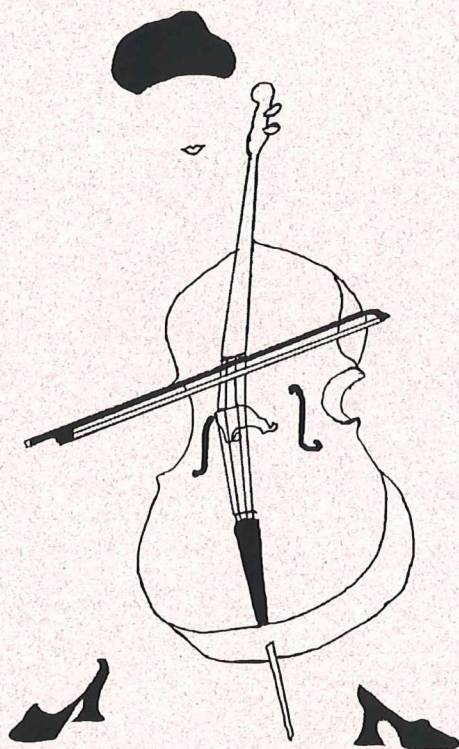
University of Toronto

Faculty of Music

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES

Shauna Rolston, cello

Bernadene Blaha, piano



Saturday, February 3, 1996

8 pm

Walter Hall

Edward Johnson Building

PROGRAMME

Sonata, Op. 6

Samuel Barber
(1910 - 1981)

Allegro ma non troppo
Adagio - Presto di nuovo - Adagio
Allegro appassionato

Sonata, Op. 40

Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906 - 1975)

Allegro ma non troppo
Allegro
Largo
Allegro

INTERMISSION

A Short Odyssey (1996)

dedicated to and written for Shauna Rolston

Ron Royer
(b. 1959)

Sonata, Op. 6

Richard Strauss
(1864 - 1949)

Allegro con brio
Andante ma non troppo
Finale - Allegro vivo

This concert is being recorded for future broadcast by CBC
Bill Skolnik, producer



A Short Odyssey for Cello and Piano

Ron Royer

A Short Odyssey for cello and piano was written for and is dedicated to Shauna Rolston. Completed in January 1996, the composition seeks to exploit the singing quality of the cello. The music begins with a dark, meditative section featuring a falling four note motive (A, G \flat , E, D) in the piano. This motive will become the basis of the principal melodies and harmonies of the entire composition. Tension builds throughout the opening until the music moves into a spirited *Allegro* section. Both cello and piano partake of the *Allegro*'s thematic material until a more relaxed melody emerges and the mood becomes more mysterious. Previously heard themes return and then the music builds to a final triumphant finish featuring the initial theme of the *Allegro* section in the piano part.

The composition's title refers to the rhapsodic nature of the music which is a short musical journey from the dark introspective beginning to the triumphant finish.

Ronald Royer is currently enrolled in the Master's Degree programme in Music Composition at the University of Toronto. He has studied composition with Lothar Klein, Walter Buczynski and Alexander Rapoport. He has also spent ten years as a professional freelance cellist, performing with ensembles such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Utah Symphony.

Mr. Royer has composed works for orchestra, choir, and various chamber ensembles. His first major composition was *Break, Break, Break*, for chorus and orchestra, which was performed in Massey Hall in March 1993. In 1995, Mr. Royer's composition, *Mistico* for string quartet was one of the winners of the University of Toronto Student Composers' Competition, and was performed by the St. Lawrence String Quartet.

Upcoming performances of other works by Mr. Royer include his composition *The Tiger* for Chorus and Symphonic Band, which will be performed by over six hundred and fifty Toronto board of Education music students at Massey Hall on April 18. Mr. Royer has also been invited to travel to Chicago in March for the premiere of his *Dance for Orchestra* which won First Prize in the Suburban Youth Orchestras Contemporary Composition Competition.



Shauna Rolston

cello

A cellist since the age of two, Shauna Rolston has developed a distinguished international reputation as a soloist, recording artist, proponent of new music, and chamber musician.

One of Canada's most celebrated musicians, Shauna has received the Pro Musicis International Award, the Government of Alberta's Award for Excellence, and the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation. In 1986, she was recognized as a *Young Artist to Watch* by Musical America, and in 1993, Shauna was named one of the *Canadian Leaders of the Future* by Maclean's Magazine.

Shauna Rolston performs regularly on four continents, appearing in recital and concerto engagements in Tokyo, Seoul, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Washington, DC, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Budapest and Rome. Since making a spectacular Town Hall (NYC) debut at the age of 16, Ms. Rolston appears at many of the major music centers around the world. Past seasons have included performances at the Concertgebouw, Wigmore Hall, the Franz Liszt Academy and Carnegie Hall. In 1994, Shauna was featured in the inaugural season of the Ford Performing Arts Centre in Toronto and in 1995 was guest artist for the 30th Anniversary Gala of Pro Musicis at Alice Tully Hall in New York.

A frequent soloist with orchestra, Shauna has appeared with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, the London Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Amsterdam Philharmonic in Europe, and is a regular soloist with the major orchestras throughout North America. Shauna Rolston was soloist for a twelve city tour with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and has performed as soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on numerous occasions.

In 1994, Shauna collaborated with the Vancouver based Kokoro Dance Ensemble and recorded *Kai*, a recent work for solo cello and eighteen instruments, written by the sensational young British composer Mark Anthony Turnage. Ms. Rolston has been featured on several discs. She has appeared on record with the London Philharmonia Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and pianists Isobel Moore, Menahem Pressler and Bernadene Blaha. Her most recent CD, recorded with the Calgary Philharmonic in 1994, includes the Elgar and Saint-Saëns concerti. Future CD releases in 1996-97 will include a two volume set of short pieces for cello and piano with pianist Kevin Fitz-Gerald and sonatas by Strauss, Debussy, Prokofiev and Janacek with pianist Bernadene Blaha.

In addition to performing the standard literature, Shauna has actively sought to expand the cello repertoire. She has commissioned works from Jean Coulthard, Violet Archer, Claude Schryer and Robert Rosen, among others, and has worked in close association with Oskar Morawetz, Gary

Kulesha, Walter Buczynski, Luciano Berio, Mark Anthony Turnage, Jacob Drukman, Bruce Mather and Robert Aitken.

Upcoming engagements include recital and concerto performances in the Virgin Islands, Turkey, Hong Kong, Taiwan, France, Czech Republic, Canada and the US. Also during the 1996-97 season, Shauna will be giving the premiere performances of several new commissions which will include a concerto for solo cello and chamber ensemble by Larysa Kuzmenko, a cello concerto entitled *Passacaglia Variations* by Ezra Laderman and a work for solo cello, percussion, piano and accordion by Douglas Schmidt.

Shauna earned a B.A. in Art History from Yale University and a Master of Music Degree from the Yale School of Music. At Yale, Shauna studied with Aldo Parisot, served as Mr. Parisot's teaching assistant, and was the Artistic Director of Music at the Yale Club in New York City. In 1994, Shauna Rolston joined the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto.



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NEW RELEASE

CBC RECORDS announces the release
of a new recording in the SM5000 series

Compact Disc No.: SMCD5153
Title: ELGAR & SAINT SAËNS CELLO CONCERTOS
Performers: SHAUNA ROLSTON, cello
CALGARY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
° MARIO BERNARDI
Producers: Ralph Thurn and Anton Kwiatkowski
Content:

SIR EDWARD ELGAR

Concerto for cello and orchestra in E minor, Op. 85

PYOTR IL'YICH TCHAIKOVSKY

Andante Cantabile

ALEXANDER GLAZUNOV

Chant du Ménéstrel, Op. 71 (Song of the Troubador)

DAVID POPPER

Hungarian Rhapsody, Op. 68

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Concerto for cello and orchestra in A minor, Op. 33

Bernadene Blaha

piano

Canadian pianist Bernadene Blaha, whose concert appearances have taken her throughout North America, Europe, Mexico, Bermuda and Jamaica, has also performed as soloist with many major orchestras, including the Hamilton, Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto and Houston Symphony Orchestras. She has been a regular guest on both CBC radio networks, as well as appearances on WQXR and WNYC in New York City. She recently performed the opening orchestra concert and solo recital at the XXIX International Chopin Festival in Marianske Lazne, Czechoslovakia, had a solo recital at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. and a U.K. solo debut in London.

Ms. Blaha was a top prize winner in the Young Keyboard Artists International Piano Competition, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Other awards include: first prize in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Competition, the Masterplayers International Competition in Lugano, Switzerland, and the 11th Annual International Piano Competition in New York City. This award resulted in two highly acclaimed recital appearances at Carnegie Recital Hall and the Lincoln Center Library. As a chamber musician, Miss Blaha has performed with the Orford String Quartet, Robert Aitken, Lynn Harrell, Karen Tuttle, Rivka Golani, Peter Bowman, Shauna Rolston, Jorja Fleezanis and David Carroll. With cellist Elizabeth Dolin, she won first place in the duo category of the City of Florence International Chamber Music Competition in Italy.

During recent seasons, Ms. Blaha has performed with the Winnipeg, Windsor, Calgary, Saskatoon, CBC Vancouver and Victoria Symphonies. She appeared in recital with Cellist Shauna Rolston in Paris and Rome, and toured the Maritimes with flutist Leslie Newman. With the assistance of the Canada Council Touring Office, Bernadene Blaha recorded her first solo recording of Chopin works. This season Ms. Blaha will perform recitals and chamber music in New York City, Los Angeles and Toronto as well as at the Newport Festival (RI), Festival of the Sound and Kincardine Festival (ON). Orchestral appearances will include the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra.

Originally from Brantford, Bernadene was a scholarship student of Boris Berlin at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and studied with Mme Ania Dorfmann at the Juilliard School where she graduated with a Master of Music Degree in 1981. Ms. Blaha has participated in masterclasses of Marek Jablonski and of Gyorgy Sebok at the Banff Festival of the Arts where she has been returning since 1985 as a faculty pianist in the summer programme. In September 1993, Bernadene was appointed to the Keyboard Faculty at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Bernadene Blaha currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband, pianist Kevin Fitzgerald, and their son Sean.

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Upcoming
Faculty Artist Series Concerts

Wednesday, February 7
8 pm

Jazz Faculty Concert

Phil Nimmons, clarinet
Gary Williamson, piano
Mike Downes, bass
Bob McLaren, drums

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Sunday, February 11
3 pm

! Profundi !

A String Concert with
Mark Skazinetzsky & Elissa Lee, violins
Chris Redfield, viola
Simon Fryer, cello
Joel Quarrington, double bass

Gibbons: *Fantasies in Three Parts*
Rossini: *Sonata for Strings No. 5 in E flat*
Mather: *Barbaresco*
Dvorák: *String Quintet, Op. 77 in G*

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Saturday, February 17
8 pm

Susan Hoeppner, flute

Judy Loman, harp
Mark Fewer, violin
Rennie Regehr, viola
Bryan Epperson, cello

Works by Mozart, Baker, Jolivet, Persichetti & Debussy

Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
Tickets \$15/\$10, Box Office 978-3744

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